Downfall in Traffaic Freight

1980. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways' share of the total traffic on freight has come down on the whole; and

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken by Government to improve the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With a view to improve the frieght traffic, Railways have taken a number of steps. Some of these include:

(i) Short Term Measures: Introduction of 'Volume Discount Scheme', quotation of concessional station to station rates, permitting two-point loading with train load benefit, reduction in minimum chargeable weight for some commodities, leasing brake vans to increase parcel loading and earnings etc.

(ii) Long Term Measures: Strengthening High Density Network, Modernising traffic facilities, proper rolling stock planning for increased productivity, introduction of comprehensive bulk freight strategy to identify flow of bulk commodities and modes of transport to devise appropriate transport packages to divert traffic to the railways, providing multi-modal infrastructure to capture non-bulk goods traffic through Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR), introduction of 'Own Your Wagon' Scheme to increase availability of rolling stock and to act as facilitator for customers, etc.

National Rail Museum at Delhi

1981. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Rail Museum at Delhi incurs a maintenance expenditure of Rs. 20 crores annually;

(b) if so, the break-up of this expenditure;

(c) the number of visitors to the Rail Museum in 1997-98 and the current year;

(d) whether Government would consider a smaller and more innovative rail museum in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) if not, the problems in having a cost effective Rail Museum in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir. The estimate for 1998-99 for National Rail Museum is Rs. 87 lakhs.

(b) Break-up of the expenditure is as follows:

Staff expenses	Rs. 56 lakhs
Approx	
Other expenses	Rs. 31 lakhs

(c) The number of visitors in 1997-98 was 275609. During the current year from April, 1998 to Feb' 1999 (11 months) the number of visitors 266210.

(d) and (e) Indian Railways have a National Rail Museum at New Delhi which serves the entire country. Keeping in view the regional requirements, as also the need to preserve heritage as is available with the various Zonal Railways, setting up of a Rail Museum at Chennai is under process for the southern